

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3

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5 PROCEEDINGS IN RE:

6 CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MEETING

7

8

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CUMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

10

2602 MENDON ROAD

CUMBERLAND, RI 02864

11

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

7:30 P.M.

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14

BEFORE:

15

FREDERIC C. CROWLEY, CHAIRPERSON

16 DONALD J. COSTA, VICE CHAIRPERSON

EARL T. WOOD

17 LISA BEAULIEU

W. DAVID WAGNER

18 ROBERT C. THIBODEAU

19 ALSO PRESENT:

DONNA A. MORELLE, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

20 SUSAN CARNEY, Ph.D., ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

21 ABSENT: JOSEPH ROTELLA, KAREN MACBETH

22

23

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1 (MEETING COMMENCED 7:45 P.M.)

2 MR. CROWLEY: We will call the

3 meeting to order at approximately 7:45 P.M.

4 Mr. Costa, please don't sit down. Would you

5 kindly lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

7 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Costa.

8 Mr. Wood.

9 MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I make a

10 motion to seal the minutes of the executive

11 session.

12 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood to
13 seal the minutes of the executive session.

14 MR. WAGNER: Second.

15 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Wagner.
16 All those in favor?

17 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

18 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
19 opposition, the ayes have it.

20 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

21 MR. CROWLEY: Next item, Mr. Wood.

22 MR. WOOD: I make a motion to approve
23 the agenda.

24 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood to
25 approve the agenda.

3

1 MR. WAGNER: Second.

2 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Wagner.

3 All those in favor?

4 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

5 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
6 opposition, the ayes have it.

7 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

8 MR. CROWLEY: The next item is the
9 chairperson's report. We have a stenographer here

10 tonight, Mrs. Poore, sitting right over here, and
11 she is going to be taking down your name, anybody
12 that wants to speak. She has papers for you to
13 sign, and then when the papers are signed, they're
14 going to be sent up to me, and then I'll give them
15 back to her at the end. The next thing, everybody
16 knows about the five-minute time limit on
17 speaking, also no personal attacks. After we
18 collect the first sign-in and call the names from
19 there, anybody who missed the first sign-in, can
20 sign up to speak at the second public comment.
21 Also, please no commenting on pending items before
22 the executive session, like grievances, so to
23 speak. And as you will notice, Mrs. MacBeth is
24 not here tonight. She has a couple of sick
25 children. And, Mr. Costa, I'm going to turn the

4

1 chair over to Mr. Costa to complete the
2 chairperson's report.

3 MR. COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 As of the last meeting, we had some discussion
5 about the kindergarten aides. Since the last
6 School Committee meeting, the superintendent and I
7 sat down, and the superintendent was gracious
8 enough to have a meeting with all the elementary

9 principals to discuss instructional impacts
10 resulting in the kindergarten aides. We all agree
11 or acknowledge a desire to respond to the parental
12 and the faculty concerns raised about the teacher
13 assistants' cuts. However, we still have not
14 identified it in the budget line item as of yet,
15 and Alex and I and Dr. Morelle have been working
16 on this quite frequently in the last week or so.
17 Tonight, I can happily report tonight, and this is
18 only a short-term solution, our goal is to put
19 some resources back in the classroom starting
20 November 19th for the next quarter. As you know,
21 the 19th begins the second quarter. And then, you
22 know, for the next quarter, then we're going to
23 evaluate the budget as we go along, and as well as
24 see the impact of these resources. So we are
25 making some headway in this dilemma. We will be

5

1 putting some, some resources in those classrooms
2 starting November 19th until the second quarter.
3 Then we're going to review the budget once again
4 and go from there and get some input from the
5 principals. Is that what we decided, Dr. Morelle?

6 DR. MORELLE: I think you stated it
7 very clearly, Mr. Costa.

8 MR. COSTA: And the other thing I
9 have on the agenda this evening that I would like
10 to speak to the public at this point was, I had
11 received an e-mail from one of our students, and
12 let me see if I can find my e-mail. We have a
13 celebrity amongst us this evening, and I was nice
14 enough to have a conversation with Susan Libby --
15 oh, Sue, I told you I was going to, Connaltin
16 (phonetic). Well, Sue was nice enough to send me
17 an e-mail last week, and I had told her that I
18 would make a public announcement. Her son Cameron
19 who is a 6th-grader at North Cumberland Middle
20 School was selected to be in this year's
21 presentation of a Christmas Carol.

22 (CLAPPING)

23 MR. COSTA: Cameron, can you stand
24 up.

25 (CLAPPING)

6

1 MR. COSTA: I told Susan that I would
2 make an announcement at the next School Committee
3 meeting, which is this evening. I also have a
4 copy of the nights that he will be performing. It
5 starts on November 16th, and it runs up to Sunday,
6 December 23rd. If anybody wants a copy of the

7 dates that Cameron will be performing at the
8 Christmas Carol, I believe it's at -- oh, it's at
9 Trinity. It's a great feat by Cameron, and we
10 wish him luck. Cameron, good luck on this
11 performance.

12 (CLAPPING)

13 MR. COSTA: I have a copy if anybody
14 wants a copy of the dates of his performances.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. CROWLEY: The Chair would like to
17 recognize council person Mia Ackerman. The next
18 item on the agenda is comments from the public.
19 Do we have a sign-up sheet, Mrs. Poore? Would you
20 kindly send it over. Kathy Lambert.

21 MS. LAMBERT: Good evening. I'm
22 Kathy Lambert. Just a question for Mr. Costa.
23 What exactly are "some resources"? You're going
24 to put some resources in the kindergarten classes.

25 MR. COSTA: That would be left up to

7

1 the principals.

2 MS. LAMBERT: Meaning people, human
3 beings?

4 MR. COSTA: Yes.

5 MS. LAMBERT: People that are

6 employed as kindergarten aides, is that what you
7 mean, kindergarten assistants?

8 MR. COSTA: I'm not so sure. This
9 will have to be determined by the principal and
10 Dr. Morelle. I don't know how we're going to
11 handle it, but we will have some resources in
12 those classrooms.

13 MS. LAMBERT: Well, resources is kind
14 of a scary word. It's not clear what it is, but
15 it will be people that will be helping out. My
16 only concern is, you said you're going to evaluate
17 the impact of that after a quarter. I just want
18 to make the point that the impact of not having an
19 aide is at least a 10-year thing. It's a long
20 term thing that will affect children by not having
21 an aide. By putting them back in for a quarter --
22 I commend you on that effort, absolutely, and I'm
23 just concerned about how you measure an impact
24 like that. Do you measure it because people stop
25 complaining, or do you reassess all the kids again

8

1 and see if they get smarter because they had an
2 aide for a quarter. Again, I would like to ask
3 that the kindergarten teachers be involved in that
4 process and those decisions.

5 DR. MORELLE: I think we'll work with
6 the building principals in that.

7 MR. COSTA: We're trying to put our
8 foot forward, Kathy.

9 MS. LAMBERT: Absolutely.

10 MR. COSTA: We understand the needs.

11 MS. LAMBERT: I'm not being critical.

12 MR. COSTA: We are trying to be
13 proactive. We're trying to come up with some
14 creative ways. As you know, it's a tight budget.
15 We all know that's why we cut them in the first
16 place.

17 MS. LAMBERT: Absolutely.

18 MR. COSTA: So now we're thinking out
19 of the box. We have some ideas, but it's going to
20 take a little further time.

21 MS. LAMBERT: Okay.

22 MR. COSTA: But we have compromised.
23 At least we're going to be taking care of the
24 second quarter, which starts on the 19th.

25 MS. LAMBERT: Thank you.

1 MR. CROWLEY: The next item on the
2 agenda is the student government report, and would
3 the students kindly get up to the microphone and

4 state your name and spell your last name for the
5 stenographer, please.

6 MR. POON: Hi, I'm Jesse Poon,
7 P-o-o-n. I'm going to be doing the speaking
8 tonight. My friend is Casey Smith, S-m-i-t-h.
9 All right, we'll start off with past events. On
10 October 16th, we held a blood drive. There were
11 39 donors, and we helped to save 117 lives.
12 Current events that are going on, we're currently
13 doing a turkey basket program where students from
14 each class are donating turkeys, potatoes, canned
15 goods, anything that is necessary to give the less
16 fortunate a decent Thanksgiving meal, and it's
17 mostly going to B.F. Norton families. A clothing
18 drive is also underway, and we are specifically
19 focusing on providing children with sufficient
20 clothing for the cold weather, like basically
21 coats, and Big Buddies will be starting the first
22 week of December, and that's at Ashton Elementary.
23 And the upcoming events, on November 15th there's
24 a junior ring ceremony, and November 28th is the
25 first parent visitation. Thank you.

10

1 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Poon.
2 Very good job.

3 (CLAPPING)

4 MR. CROWLEY: The next item on the
5 agenda is reports of standing committees.

6 Mrs. Beaulieu.

7 MRS. BEAULIEU: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman. Can everyone hear me back there?
9 The Curriculum Subcommittee meeting met last
10 evening to continue our self-study through the Key
11 Work of School Boards, and we began the
12 accountability section of that study. It talks
13 about how the district measures itself in terms of
14 success. It's always a pretty open, frank
15 discussion. It's usually very down to earth. I
16 welcome all of you or any of you to attend it.
17 It's a great way to ask questions about how we as
18 a district and we as a School Board are trying to
19 move ourselves forward. What we decided at the
20 end of that meeting was to work on one of the
21 other action areas, which is assessment, to
22 determine what we use as assessment scores to
23 determine the changes for the district, and we
24 will likely meet in a few weeks. It's posted as
25 the Curriculum Subcommittee, and I appreciate all

1 those who attended. We had some new faces there,

2 and I think it was a nice discussion, so thank
3 you.

4 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you,
5 Mrs. Beaulieu. Mr. Wood?

6 MR. WOOD: Last month or the last
7 meeting the Building Committee did meet to go over
8 the bids for B.F. Norton roof. Because it wasn't
9 on our agenda, we couldn't take a vote, but the
10 Building Committee has requested to bring to the
11 full committee to allow the administration to go
12 out to bid for design and architectural
13 documentation for the repair of B.F. Norton roof.
14 So I will make a motion to have the administration
15 go out for design -- architectural design and
16 repair documents.

17 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

18 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood,
19 seconded by Mrs. Beaulieu. Discussion? All those
20 in favor?

21 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

22 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
23 opposition, the ayes have it.

24 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

25 MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle, you and I

1 spoke earlier this week about rules and regs. The
2 next meeting is the 13th of December. I would
3 like to schedule a rules and regs. meeting on the
4 12th if you don't mind. We have some unfinished
5 items that we have to deal with.

6 DR. MORELLE: On the 12th of
7 December?

8 MR. COSTA: December.

9 DR. MORELLE: May I just consult with
10 Mr. Wood. Is that going to be the same night as
11 the 3.5 Building Committee, the way the schedule
12 falls?

13 MR. WOOD: Is that Wednesday night?

14 DR. MORELLE: Yes, it is.

15 MR. WOOD: It would have to be after
16 7.

17 MR. COSTA: All right, we'll schedule
18 a meeting after 7. Is that all right with you,
19 Lisa?

20 MR. CROWLEY: You have Karen on that.

21 DR. MORELLE: On Wednesday,
22 December 12th?

23 MR. COSTA: Yes, you have rules and
24 regs. I believe we have a couple of items
25 pertaining to --

1 DR. MORELLE: You have a couple of
2 items that need to be acted on that were only
3 tabled in the subcommittee, and actually the
4 nursing supervisor would be very pleased if you
5 acted on those and brought that to closure.

6 MR. COSTA: Let's put that on the
7 agenda for December 12th, Wednesday evening, and
8 move forward.

9 DR. MORELLE: I would be happy to
10 have that posted for you.

11 MR. COSTA: Thank you.

12 MR. CROWLEY: Let me know any action
13 items too, Don. Mr. Wagner?

14 MR. WAGNER: Yes, thank you. The
15 Finance Subcommittee met at 5:45 this evening, and
16 we had a couple of items. The first was the
17 payment of bills. We had three registers
18 totaling \$656,341.05. That was approved for -- we
19 approved it two to nothing to bring it forward for
20 payment, and I would like a motion to go ahead and
21 authorize those funds.

22 MR. CROWLEY: Are you making a
23 motion, Mr. Wagner?

24 MR. WAGNER: Sure.

25 MR. CROWLEY: Mr. Wagner makes a

1 motion to approve the payment of the bills.

2 Mr. Costa.

3 MR. COSTA: Second.

4 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Costa.

5 Discussion? All those in favor?

6 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

7 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
8 opposition, the ayes have it.

9 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

10 MR. WAGNER: The next item we had on
11 there was the B.F. Norton roof, but we really
12 didn't have any information, so we just skipped
13 over that, and the last item that we had was
14 budget transfers for FY 2008, and that really was
15 just some housekeeping to clean up some of the
16 accounts based on changes that we made throughout
17 the summer, and that was just brought forward two
18 to nothing, and that's the report. So that's all
19 set. And then the only other thing I did want to
20 comment on, Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me,
21 is from our meeting last evening, we did actually
22 go over quite a few nice little things with regard
23 to accountability and assessment, and actually
24 there was very good ideas. I happen to like the

25 one in particular from Dr. Morelle with regards to

15

1 the dashboard, even though it wasn't a Nissan, but
2 there's some very good meetings, and if some of
3 you out there do have time to contribute, this is
4 a very good place to come in. It's where we're
5 setting up and where we're looking forward to our
6 goals for the next year in how we're doing our
7 accountability and assessment, so all input is
8 welcome when you go in. That's the end of my
9 report, Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. CROWLEY: Mr. Wagner, do you have
11 a motion for the budget transfers?

12 MR. WAGNER: I don't believe we need
13 one, but if you'd like, I'll make one.

14 MR. CROWLEY: Go ahead. It's on the
15 agenda.

16 MR. WAGNER: Okay, I would like a
17 motion to approve.

18 MR. COSTA: So moved.

19 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Costa to
20 approve it.

21 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

22 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by
23 Mr. Thibodeau. Discussion?

24 (MULTIPLE INAUDIBLE PEOPLE SPEAKING AT ONCE)

25 MR. CROWLEY: Any further discussion?

16

1 MR. THIBODEAU: Thank you.

2 MR. WOOD: Thank you.

3 MR. CROWLEY: You are okay with it

4 Mr. Wood, Mrs. Beaulieu?

5 MR. WOOD: Yes.

6 MS. BEAULIEU: Yes.

7 MR. CROWLEY: All those in favor?

8 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

9 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no

10 opposition, the ayes have it.

11 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

12 MR. CROWLEY: The next item on the
13 agenda is the consent agenda. Do we have a motion
14 for the consent agenda?

15 MR. THIBODEAU: So moved.

16 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr.
17 Thibodeau.

18 MR. WAGNER: Second.

19 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Wagner
20 to approve the consent agenda. Discussion? All
21 those in favor?

22 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

23 **MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no**
24 **opposition, the ayes have it.**
25 **(UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)**

17

1 **MR. CROWLEY: The next item on the**
2 **agenda is the approval of minutes. Mr. Costa, you**
3 **and I have to recuse ourselves for the 8/8/07**
4 **meeting, and Mrs. MacBeth is not here.**
5 **Mr. Thibodeau, would you be so kind, since you**
6 **have been on the School Committee for at least 46**
7 **years, would you please take over the Chair right**
8 **now for this particular item Mr. Costa and I are**
9 **recusing.**

10 **MR. THIBODEAU: I need a motion to**
11 **approve the special meeting of the executive**
12 **session on 8/8/07.**

13 **MR. WAGNER: So moved.**

14 **MR. THIBODEAU: Motioned by**
15 **Mr. Wagner.**

16 **MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

17 **MR. THIBODEAU: Seconded by**
18 **Mrs. Beaulieu? Any discussion? Hearing none, all**
19 **those in favor?**

20 **(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)**

21 **MR. THIBODEAU: Opposed? It passes**

22 four to nothing.

23 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

24 (MR. COSTA & MR. CROWLEY RECUSED)

25 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you,

18

1 Mr. Thibodeau. Would you please note for the
2 record that Mr. Costa and Mr. Crowley were
3 recused, and I know you know that word. The next
4 item is the executive session of August 28, '07.

5 MR. WAGNER: So moved.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wagner to
7 accept the minutes of the executive session of
8 8/28/07.

9 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

10 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by
11 Mr. Thibodeau. Discussion? All those in favor?

12 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

13 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
14 opposition, the ayes have it.

15 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

16 MR. CROWLEY: The next item is the
17 executive session of 10/11/07. Do we have a
18 motion?

19 MR. WOOD: So moved.

20 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

21 **MR. CROWLEY:** Motion by Mr. Wood, and
22 **Mrs. Beaulieu** seconded it. Discussion? All those
23 in favor?

24 **(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)**

25 **MR. CROWLEY:** Opposed? Hearing no

19

1 opposition, the ayes have is.

2 **(UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)**

3 **MR. CROWLEY:** The next item is
4 personnel recommendations. Dr. Morelle.

5 **DR. MORELLE:** Thank you, Mr. Crowley.

6 I still have a touch of laryngitis, so I

7 apologize. I appreciate the improved microphone

8 tonight. I think it will help a little bit. I

9 will start with the retirements. I request the

10 advice and consent of the School Committee on the

11 retirement of Marie Dion, teacher assistant, at

12 Community School, effective October 15, 2007.

13 **MR. THIBODEAU:** So moved.

14 **MR. CROWLEY:** Motion by Mr. Thibodeau
15 to accept the retirement.

16 **MR. WAGNER:** Second.

17 **MR. CROWLEY:** Seconded by Mr. Wagner.

18 Discussion? All those in favor?

19 **(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)**

20 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
21 opposition, the ayes have it.

22 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

23 DR. MORELLE: The resignation of
24 Julia Szumita, teacher assistant, at North
25 Cumberland Middle School, effective November 2,

20

1 2007.

2 MR. WOOD: So moved.

3 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood.

4 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

5 MR. WAGNER: Second.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by

7 Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Wagner. Discussion? Do you
8 have anything? All those in favor?

9 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

10 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
11 opposition, the ayes have it.

12 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

13 DR. MORELLE: The medical FMLA of
14 Diane Devolve, adaptive physical education
15 teacher, Cumberland High School, effective
16 November 6, 2007, through January 2, 2008.

17 MR. WOOD: So moved.

18 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood.

19 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.
20 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Ms.
21 Beaulieu. Discussion? Mr. Costa.
22 MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle, do we have a
23 sub in there, or will we have a sub in there?
24 DR. MORELLE: I can answer the second
25 question. We will respond to the needs of the

21

1 students who have adaptive P.E. needs. I can't
2 answer with specificity how that will be dealt
3 with, but the Acting Director of Special Services
4 will manage that.

5 MR. COSTA: Okay.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Any further discussion?
7 All those in favor?

8 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

9 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
10 opposition, the ayes have it.

11 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

12 DR. MORELLE: I would like to address
13 appointments next. I request the advice and
14 consent of the School Committee on the appointment
15 of Marissa Janton, .6 world language teacher at
16 Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective
17 November 9, 2007. It is a salary level of \$39,484

18 and \$40,274. Each of the appointments tonight, I
19 will be reflecting a salary, and, as you know,
20 it's a split salary scale this year, so I will be
21 stating two salary levels. It is budgeted.

22 MR. CROWLEY: Is there a motion?

23 MR. COSTA: So moved.

24 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Costa.

25 THE WITNESS: Second.

22

1 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Wagner.

2 Discussion? All those in favor?

3 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

4 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
5 opposition, the ayes have it.

6 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

7 DR. MORELLE: The appointment of
8 Heather Herring, .8 social studies teacher at
9 Cumberland High School, effective November 9,
10 2007, \$37,026, \$37,767, budgeted.

11 MR. WOOD: So moved.

12 MR. WAGNER: Second.

13 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood,
14 seconded by Mr. Wagner. Discussion? All those in
15 favor?

16 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

17 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
18 opposition, the ayes have it.

19 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

20 DR. MORELLE: The appointment of
21 Rosemary Colson, guidance counselor at Cumberland
22 High School, one year only, .8, \$66,734, \$68,068,
23 budgeted.

24 MR. COSTA: So moved.

25 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Costa.

23

1 THE WITNESS: Second.

2 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Wagner.
3 Discussion? Mr. Costa.

4 MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle, with this
5 appointment this evening, is there another opening
6 in the guidance?

7 DR. MORELLE: Yes, sir.

8 MR. COSTA: And how are we going on
9 that?

10 DR. MORELLE: They are actively
11 interviewing, and with each candidate that we're
12 interviewing, we're trying to marry the
13 certification in working with the Department of
14 Education on a fairly regular basis. Our goal is
15 a full complement of guidance counselors at the

16 high school, as you know.

17 MR. COSTA: Okay, so with this
18 appointment this evening, we will still be one
19 short?

20 DR. MORELLE: Correct.

21 MR. COSTA: Okay.

22 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, Mr. Wood?

23 MR. WOOD: Dr. Morelle, with this
24 appointment, will this take care of a lot of the
25 needs of the seniors?

24

1 DR. MORELLE: I am confident that the
2 high school principal Mrs. Gould is working with
3 the Guidance Department to allocate the staff that
4 is there on a needs basis, and I would hope that
5 any statements with regard to the needs of
6 students not being met be taken in perspective.

7 MR. WOOD: I understand all needs of
8 the students need to be met, but at this point in
9 time, especially going into the second semester or
10 second quarter, I know seniors need to start to
11 getting transcribes out and things like that.

12 DR. MORELLE: I am confident that the
13 Guidance Office is prioritizing the needs of the
14 students at the high school. Not managing the

15 Guidance Office myself, I don't know that with
16 specificity, but I do know the high school
17 principal is here, if you would like her to answer
18 that question. Would you like to respond to that
19 question about senior needs being met?

20 MS. GOULD: The counselors who are
21 here are making sure that all the seniors are
22 covered. They have taken the seniors that were on
23 the caseloads of the people who are on maternity
24 leave, and they've divided those up, and they're
25 meeting the needs of the seniors first. They meet

25

1 regularly, and they make sure they're touching
2 base very frequently to make sure that the needs
3 of the seniors are particularly all met, because
4 it's so time sensitive right now.

5 MR. WOOD: Thank you.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you. Any further
7 discussion? All those in favor?

8 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

9 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
10 opposition, the ayes have it.

11 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

12 DR. MORELLE: The appointment of
13 Kerri Reilly, reading specialist at Joseph L.

14 **McCourt Middle School, November 9, 2007, \$37,026,**
15 **\$37,776, budgeted.**

16 **MR. WOOD: So moved.**

17 **MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Wood.**

18 **MR. COSTA: Second.**

19 **MR. CROWLEY: Seconded Mr. Costa.**

20 **Discussion? All those in favor?**

21 **(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)**

22 **MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no**
23 **opposition, the ayes have it.**

24 **(UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)**

25 **DR. MORELLE: The last appointment is**

26

1 **on Addendum Number 1. I request the advice and**
2 **consent of the School Committee on the appointment**
3 **of Mark Primiano, boys' basketball coach at Joseph**
4 **L. McCourt Middle School, effective November 9,**
5 **2007, budget.**

6 **MR. COSTA: So moved.**

7 **MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Costa.**

8 **MR. WOOD: Second.**

9 **MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by Mr. Wood.**

10 **Discussion?**

11 **MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle, Mark is**
12 **employed by the Cumberland school system now?**

13 DR. MORELLE: Yes, sir.
14 MR. COSTA: He's a history teacher?
15 DR. MORELLE: English teacher.
16 MR. CROWLEY: Any further discussion?
17 All those in favor?
18 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)
19 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
20 opposition, the ayes have it.
21 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)
22 DR. MORELLE: That's it. Thank you
23 very much.
24 MR. CROWLEY: Mrs. Beaulieu?
25 MS. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr.

27

1 Chairman, I just wanted to recognize Marie Dion
2 for her years of service. She was a teacher
3 assistant for my older boys, and I appreciate the
4 effort, and I know we will miss her greatly.
5 Thank you.
6 (CLAPPING)
7 MR. CROWLEY: The next item on the
8 agenda is old business. Mr. Wood, the Building
9 Committee update?
10 MR. WOOD: It seems like the Building
11 Committees haven't met in a while. We can see the

12 construction continues to go on here at the high
13 school. I believe our new cafeteria will be
14 opened up on Tuesday. On Tuesday there was a
15 small delay due to heat. I guess you need heat to
16 put the floor down, so that will be open, and you
17 can take a tour through. Mr. Costa, I know you
18 will probably already be first in line in the
19 cafeteria.

20 MR. WAGNER: A standing reservation.

21 MR. CROWLEY: Mr. Wood, what is that
22 date again?

23 MR. WOOD: Tuesday.

24 MR. COSTA: I'll be out of town. Can
25 we hold it off until next Tuesday?

28

1 MR. WOOD: We can try.

2 MR. COSTA: I will surely be there.

3 MR. WOOD: The 3.5 Building

4 Committee, as you know, Ashton School, if you go
5 down there, you will see they have put up the
6 steel, and they're continuing to work on the
7 foundation at the Cumberland Hill Project.

8 There's a little more construction there with
9 putting in the foundation on that building. The
10 3.5 Building Committee will meet next Wednesday,

11 the 14th, at 5:30 here at -- sorry, at the
12 transitional building, and 2010 will meet the last
13 Monday of this month, whatever date that is,
14 again, at the transitional building.

15 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Wood.
16 Any questions for Mr. Wood? Mr. Costa.

17 MR. COSTA: Mr. Wood, I'm not so sure
18 if it's under the Building Committee, but having
19 reviewed the police report this evening, we have
20 been discussing about putting some cameras in
21 Cumberland Middle or McCourt, and I'm not so sure
22 if J.J. McLaughlin was a part of that, because I
23 notice there's a lot -- there has been a lot of
24 activities in both schools with graffiti, and I
25 know that discussion was taking place as to

29

1 perhaps getting a grant of some sort to perhaps
2 fund putting cameras on the outside of the
3 building in certain locations. Where do we stand?

4 MR. WOOD: As you know from the 2010
5 plan, we are currently putting in security here at
6 the high school with cameras. Actually, the
7 Building Committee also addressed the other issues
8 with the other nine schools that we have, and
9 we're currently putting in security systems. I'm

10 not sure about cameras going in. We can look into
11 that in the Property Subcommittee.

12 MR. COSTA: Thanks.

13 MR. CROWLEY: Any further questions
14 of Mr. Wood? Thank you, Mr. Wood. The next item
15 on the agenda is new business. Home school
16 instruction requests 2007/2008 school year. Dr.
17 Carney?

18 DR. CARNEY: Yes, you have one
19 request before you this evening, and I recommend
20 you approve it, and to the best of our knowledge,
21 it's the last one we were expecting, but if
22 someone new were to move in and have somebody home
23 schooled, you might see additional, but we think
24 this is it. I just wanted to say that in advance
25 of Mr. Costa's question.

30

1 MR. CROWLEY: Do we have a motion?

2 MR. COSTA: So moved.

3 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Costa.

4 MR. WAGNER: Second.

5 MR. COSTA: Seconded by Mr. Wagner.

6 Discussion? All those in favor?

7 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

8 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no

9 opposition, the ayes have it.

10 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

11 MR. CROWLEY: The next item on the
12 agenda is the appointment of a Space Utilization
13 Task Force, and Dr. Morelle and Mr. Costa and I
14 have met on numerous occasions concerning this,
15 and we had 16 people apply to be on the -- instead
16 of calling it the Space Utilization Task Force,
17 I'm going to call it the Redistricting Committee
18 because that is what it is.

19 MR. COSTA: Realignment.

20 MR. CROWLEY: Realignment, excuse me,
21 and all 16 people were well qualified, and we made
22 our choices through areas of town where the people
23 came from and also variety of interests and
24 abilities, and we think we came up with a very
25 good group to handle this assignment, and I am

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1 going to read the names of the people that were
2 appointed: Mr. Paul Barlow, who is a parent
3 representative from Community School. Mr. William
4 Enestvedt is a parent representative from Ashton
5 School. Debra Fernandes is a community
6 representative district at-large. Mr. John
7 Gibbons, community representative, task force

8 chairperson. He is appointed the Chair.
9 Mr. Brian Kelly, a community representative,
10 district at-large. Ms. Laurie Kissik, parent
11 representative, Garvin Elementary School. Ms.
12 Paula Maloney, school administration, B.F. Norton
13 School. Mr. William Menard, community
14 representative, district at-large. Mr. Armand
15 Pires, who I see in the audience tonight and
16 congratulate him, he's representing school
17 administration. He's the middle school
18 representative. Mr. Gene Sartini, who rounds out
19 the group, he's a community representative from
20 John McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School.
21 Now, the Space Utilization Task Force, a/k/a
22 realignment will be charged with reviewing the
23 space capacity issues currently facing the
24 district at the preschool, elementary, and middle
25 level in order to develop recommendations that

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1 will respond to those needs for the foreseeable
2 future. The task force is expected to meet weekly
3 through approximately January 15, 2008. During
4 this time, task force members will have access to
5 school facilities information as well as both
6 current and projected enrollment data. At the

7 conclusion of their work, the Space Utilization
8 Task Force will make recommendations to the
9 Cumberland School Committee for their
10 consideration with regard to neighborhood
11 assignments for each of the schools. Mr. Costa,
12 are you okay on that?

13 MR. COSTA: Fine.

14 MR. CROWLEY: Do you have any
15 additions or corrections?

16 MR. COSTA: No.

17 MR. CROWLEY: Dr. Morelle?

18 DR. MORELLE: Well, first of all, I
19 would like to thank all of the people who sent
20 letters in, and I would like to thank, in
21 particular, those parents and community members
22 whose names were just read out loud for their
23 gracious acceptance of this task. Each one of
24 them has selfishly or selflessly, I guess,
25 selflessly agreed to step forward and put

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1 themselves into a conversation that I think they
2 know in advance could be a difficult conversation.
3 It's a complex discussion. It's going to raise a
4 lot of special interest groups simply because each
5 of us who lives in the community does so because

6 we like where we live, because we have a
7 particular interest in the neighborhood, and
8 because our children have friends that they've
9 made and bonds and strong connections, and there's
10 a worry in front of everyone. And there isn't a
11 person that I've talked to who's stepping into
12 this task who isn't aware of that, who hasn't
13 expressed a thoughtfulness about how they're going
14 to go about this work, and I think what I would
15 like to acknowledge is that I hope that all of us
16 will treat the task force members respectfully,
17 that we'll support them, that we'll allow the
18 space they need to look at the data, to inquire
19 and ask questions. I want to make it clear what
20 our role will be as administrators. I, nor any
21 member of our administrative staff, will actually
22 be a member of the task force because we want them
23 to act as independently as possible, but we will
24 be here to support the members at any time that
25 they need information or to inquire about

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1 questions or the history of the district and how
2 things have evolved to the place where we are
3 right now, and hopefully they will be able to
4 bring forward through their analysis

5 recommendations for consideration to the School
6 Committee. I think it's also important to know
7 that I have spoken to the Mayor, and he has
8 indicated that the Planning Department will be
9 accessible to the task force because they have
10 information that's really important with regard to
11 the future development of the town. And I think
12 this is in some ways a defining moment for the
13 community, for all of us to rally together and
14 collaborate on this conversation. I am looking
15 forward to supporting the task force, and I'm
16 looking forward to the recommendations that they
17 bring to the committee, and it will impact our
18 work in the future. But, also, I think it will
19 solve some of the dilemmas that we've been facing
20 because behind the scenes we have been struggling
21 with answering some of these questions by
22 ourselves, and it has put a responsibility on the
23 school administration that, frankly, does not
24 belong on our shoulders, and I'm looking forward,
25 as I said, to a resolution to this. So I applaud

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1 each one of these 10 folks whose names you just
2 read, and, Mr. Crowley, I do believe that there
3 may be some of them in the audience. I don't know

4 if you wanted to ask if any of them are here, to
5 be recognized.

6 MR. CROWLEY: If there is anyone
7 whose name that I've read out, please stand up to
8 be recognized by the community.

9 (CLAPPING)

10 MR. CROWLEY: Dr. Morelle, there were
11 seven other people that applied. We had 16
12 well-qualified people. Could you please let us
13 know what is happening and what you've done
14 concerning the seven other people?

15 DR. MORELLE: Actually, my office
16 contacted each of them today to indicate that
17 their letter of interest would be held onto should
18 there be a reason for a need for an alternate or
19 someone additional to participate. There
20 certainly was a similar willingness to serve the
21 community from each of the persons who
22 corresponded with the School Department, and on
23 behalf of the School Committee, I did, as I said,
24 correspond with each of those individuals today
25 for you.

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1 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Dr. Morelle.

2 MR. THIBODEAU: Mr. Chairman.

3 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, Mr. Thibodeau.

4 MR. THIBODEAU: I would also like to
5 say to all of the task force members, I wish you
6 good luck because having done this before in the
7 '90s, the results were the people really wanted
8 neighborhood schools. If they were in the
9 neighborhood, and they could see the school,
10 that's the school they wanted to go to. So with
11 all the consultants the last time we did this, the
12 KLQ, all those people, you could see the fruits of
13 the labor, Community School, Garvin School, B.F.
14 Norton, all the add-ons that were done. And to
15 this point today, that's all antiquated now, and
16 you're going to see that with some of the
17 kindergarten kids that are out of district and so
18 forth. So it is time again to do the most
19 volatile thing a school district can do, so-called
20 move lines. It's very volatile. I wish everybody
21 luck. I wish you the best because you are about
22 to step into what we call on the School Committee
23 the twilight zone. Good luck.

24 DR. MORELLE: Mr. Crowley, may I add
25 one other thing that I think is really important?

1 MR. CROWLEY: Sure, Dr. Morelle.

2 DR. MORELLE: Based on our experience
3 with other communities, one of the things that we
4 know is really important is when the task force
5 does bring their recommendations forward to the
6 School Committee, there will be public hearings on
7 that information. So if you're sitting here and
8 you have neighbors, you should share that
9 information with your neighbors. They don't need
10 to fear that they're not going to be made aware of
11 this information. Right now the time line for the
12 task force is between now and mid to late January,
13 and then those public hearings will be sponsored
14 by the School Committee at that point in time, and
15 the School Committee has a responsibility to
16 broadly disseminate the information and take input
17 before they take any action, and I think that
18 that's something important for everyone to know.
19 So as I'm looking across the audience here, and I
20 see a lot of embassies. I see faculty sitting
21 here, who are probably going to be faced with
22 these questions, and you interact with a lot of
23 families who may have these questions. I see
24 parents. I see PTO leaders in the audience, and
25 school improvement team folks. That's a really

1 important piece of information to share; that this
2 isn't information that is going to go quietly back
3 and forth between two small groups of people.
4 There will be a lot of opportunities for those
5 people who may or may not, in fact, be impacted by
6 this to have input and to know about it.

7 MR. CROWLEY: Any further discussion?

8 MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman.

9 MR. CROWLEY: Mr. Wood?

10 MR. WOOD: Has a date been set or a
11 meeting time been set, like, for example, a
12 Wednesday night?

13 MR. CROWLEY: We're going to stay out
14 of it, Mr. Wood. We're going to let the Chair and
15 let the Committee decide that.

16 MR. WOOD: Is it going to be public
17 meetings and post it?

18 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, Mr. Wood.

19 MR. WOOD: So we will be able to see
20 them through the newspaper?

21 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, Mr. Wood. Any
22 further discussion? The next item is School
23 Committee goals/vision statement. Mrs. Beaulieu.

24 (POWERPOINT PRESENTATION)

25 MS. BEAULIEU: I've left some

1 handouts up front because we're kind of blocked
2 off and taped off, and you're welcome to take
3 them. What they are are the vision statement for
4 the strategic plan, the mission, and the belief
5 statement, and that's what we started with with
6 the self-study that I had talked about earlier,
7 which was the Key Work of School Boards. Some of
8 the things that we began with with Key Work, and I
9 will go over what we talked about, and I promised
10 Mr. Costa that this would take less than an hour
11 and a half, and I will actually limit it to about
12 five minutes, so I wanted to give you all just a
13 general introduction of what Key Work is, and the
14 action areas that we started with, and what I hope
15 to do is, some of the work that comes out of the
16 curriculum subcommittee meeting, we get to report
17 on as needed, and this was actually very timely
18 with some of the conversations that we've had
19 recently. We did what was called a
20 self-assessment matrix, and it allowed us to have
21 a nice little dialogue about what we felt we were
22 doing with respect to the vision, and then I put
23 some of the collective comments that we've had
24 there, as well as the next steps. So rather than
25 read this, you can read it on your own, but

1 generally it reflects the way in which a School
2 Board needs to guide itself to make appropriate
3 changes and decisions for its school district. It
4 allows us to create excellent public schools, and
5 it allows us to be spokespeople for the parents,
6 for the teachers, for the students, for the
7 community, and it's our role and responsibility to
8 ensure that we do raise the level of rigor for our
9 district. There's a framework for this, and there
10 are eight action areas, and you can see those, and
11 we have ventured through a few of them. We have
12 finished the vision statement. We have been
13 meeting since February, and the majority of our
14 committee members have come. Many are very
15 dedicated to it. Many have come when they've had
16 the available time, but I think they would all
17 agree that when we're there, the dialogue is
18 pretty focused. It's open. It's very engaging.
19 We ask a lot of questions like, how do we know
20 we're doing the right thing, how do we know our
21 decisions are the best decisions to make, how do
22 we know when we need to -- when we're willing to
23 admit things aren't working well, or what do we do
24 to ensure that students have safety nets in their

25 learning experience. So tonight we'll talk a bit

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1 about vision, and I'm going to read just a few of
2 the sentences in the Key Work guidebook. The
3 website for Key Work is at the end of the
4 presentation, so if you want to jot it down, you
5 can certainly do so, but what it says is your
6 vision is what you want to become; the ideal
7 tomorrow you want to create today, and I'm going
8 to jump around here. It really has quite a bit of
9 nice detail. It says building a shared vision
10 requires that you're first able to agree on your
11 core beliefs and values. Your vision should
12 inspire, and most importantly that your vision
13 cannot end with a written statement. And I think
14 that the vision statement for us was really the
15 first experience for many of us who are freshman
16 members, and then those senior or veteran members,
17 I should say veterans members, to come and share
18 our wealth of experience, whether we were new, we
19 came from a business background, we were the
20 superintendent of schools, we were parents. We
21 talked a lot about how to create that community
22 discussion for education and to define the
23 expectation. We felt the strategic plan did that

24 and did it well for the time in which it was
25 defined and when it was revisited. Some of the

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1 strategies for understanding your vision involved
2 the community in setting a vision. When we
3 reviewed the strategic plan, we agreed that
4 generally speaking the community was a part of
5 that, and I will talk about that in a minute. It
6 also talked about a regular reevaluation and
7 adjustment of our vision and a process for ongoing
8 community involvement in that planning.

9 Now, this was our self-assessment, and this
10 was part of the Key Work. We didn't make up what
11 this matrix was, and you'll see some of the little
12 Xs on the screen are centered in the box, to the
13 left of the box, and to the right of the box, and
14 we really felt sometimes it wasn't very easy to
15 put, yes, we fully achieved it. We said, well,
16 yeah, we fully achieved it, but we know we have a
17 little bit of work to do. So the first one is
18 that we had an established written vision that
19 commits student achievement as a top priority of
20 the School Board. We said generally we've done
21 that. We probably need to work on it, tweak it a
22 little bit, but we've generally established that

23 vision, and we fully achieved it. We've also said
24 that stakeholder representatives helped create the
25 vision. And one of the things we noticed, and,

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1 again, the vision statement is here, the vision
2 talks about students, teachers, administrators,
3 parents, community members, business and
4 employers, higher education, education, town
5 government, but it never really talked about what
6 the School Committee's responsibility was to that,
7 and that was something that we really hoped we
8 could be in a more active role, considering that
9 the next strategic plan is coming up in 2008. So
10 we agreed we mostly achieved that. We also said
11 as a Board we discussed core beliefs and values of
12 our district and community, and these values are
13 reflected in our vision. And our hope is to get
14 together as a Board to discuss some of the goals
15 that we want to set for the next year or years to
16 come, and we think that the open, engaging
17 dialogue, similar to what we've had in the
18 workshop, is probably the best venue for that. To
19 do it in front of a meeting, where it's us on this
20 side, and everyone else on the other side, isn't
21 always the best engaging discussion. We also

22 agreed that we were really not articulating well
23 our vision of the schools, and we were beginning
24 to achieve it. So there is some dialogue and
25 discussion about it, but we really need to do a

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1 better job. The strategic plan does talk about
2 developing a marketing and communication plan.
3 We've talked about it a lot as committee people,
4 and we're hoping that the next year we can
5 sincerely improve some of those efforts. We
6 frequently revisit and reaffirm our vision to
7 ensure our constancy of purpose, and I think many
8 of us said, well, this really was our first effort
9 at that, so we know we need to review it now, and
10 hope to continue it in the next year. And then we
11 said we partially achieved it when we said our
12 vision is the basis, and you may not be able to
13 see the discoloration, but it said for all
14 long-range strategic planning and policy
15 decisions. We changed that to some. We think the
16 vision really is reflected in some of the
17 long-range planning, but for us, to educate us,
18 again, as School Committee people, we need to
19 become more proactive in understanding how this
20 big factory of school works and all the components

21 that go into it. Our vision is a guiding force
22 that sets the framework for how we operate as a
23 district. Again, we're partially achieving that.
24 So we know we have a lot of work to do. We base
25 our resources and budget decisions on our vision,

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1 and we've all had the opportunity as committee
2 members to go through a budget cycle. We now have
3 a more appreciative understanding of how we can
4 directly connect improving student learning to our
5 budget decisions. And then the final one was
6 everything we do as a Board of Education aligns to
7 achieve our vision, and I think we kind of
8 generally felt we, again, needed to work to
9 improve that. Some of the collective comments
10 that we had I thought were interesting to share.
11 We did say that we thought the vision was clearly
12 defined. We certainly felt that the
13 communications plan that was part of the strategic
14 plan was going to help satisfy some of the gaps to
15 parents, to the community, to improving education.
16 We also said that the mission is not well known to
17 the community, and the mission really kind of
18 defines, you know, how we're going to get there,
19 what we're going to do, what we have to think

20 about every day as we walk into a board meeting or
21 if we walk into the school, how we're going to
22 live by those rules. And we also said again, as I
23 said earlier, the School Committee was invisible
24 within the plan. We need a workshop to plan our
25 goals, and we need to encourage challenge, and I

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1 think that goes along with raising the level of
2 rigor that we talked about before. But the
3 challenge isn't just to our students. The
4 challenge is to our staff. The challenge is to
5 ourselves. We have a big responsibility. We have
6 a \$52 million budget, and we have a \$30 million
7 bond. So we're in a great opportunity now. We
8 have got the resources to do it, and we have to
9 make certain we can do our very best for these
10 students, and that the schools need to share the
11 responsibility of the growth of the students.
12 It's everyone's job here.

13 So we have some action steps, set a workshop
14 to set our goals. I hope we can do that before
15 the December meeting. It would be great for us as
16 a committee to establish a vision statement that
17 would be part of the next strategy plan. What we
18 found during this process which has occurred, like

19 I said, since February, there have been a lot of
20 things that have been identified that we've
21 discussed. Literacy is a great example of that.
22 We spent quite a bit of time talking about
23 literacy at the K, 1, and 2 levels, literacy at
24 the high school level, literacy at the middle
25 school level, and how can we do a better job of

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1 meeting students' needs sometimes when they're
2 struggling, and I think great work is going to
3 come out of that this year. We also think that in
4 the next revision of the strategic plan, and in
5 looking through the plan itself, we agreed that
6 higher education, business leaders, and students
7 need to be part of that. I don't think there were
8 many of those individuals there, and they are a
9 integral part of our education. And to use the
10 district's communication plan to provide
11 communication to parents and officials, and I
12 think we keep saying that over and over again, and
13 I'm pretty confident that we're going to do that
14 this year. And then we're going to continue
15 working with the action areas of Key Work. We all
16 like it. We all enjoy it. It is a great engaging
17 conversation, and then the Key Work's, the School

18 Board's website is right there. You can upload
19 the PDF. It's proprietary, so you can't print it
20 out, but you can join us, and we usually have
21 copies available, and that's it. Thank you very
22 much.

23 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you,
24 Mrs. Beaulieu.

25 (CLAPPING)

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1 MR. CROWLEY: Mrs. Beaulieu, are you
2 going to make copies of this PowerPoint
3 presentation for the Board members?

4 MS. BEAULIEU: I actually have them
5 right here, so I would be happy to hand them down.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you. Any
7 questions of Mrs. Beaulieu? Any comments for
8 Mrs. Beaulieu?

9 MR. COSTA: A job well done, Lisa.

10 MS. BEAULIEU: Thank you.

11 MR. COSTA: I'm glad to be part of
12 the Curriculum Subcommittee. It's very engaging,
13 and some healthy conversation has been coming out
14 of this discussion.

15 MS. BEAULIEU: I agree.

16 MR. CROWLEY: Any further comments?

17 MR. WAGNER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
18 MR. CROWLEY: Mr. Wagner.
19 MR. WAGNER: I did want to say, being
20 a rookie on the team here, this particular
21 exercise that we have been going through, for me
22 has been really very, very beneficial. It's kind
23 of overwhelming sometimes when you come in and you
24 realize the extent of the responsibilities that
25 you have, and for me the lack of education and

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1 information that I've had in the past, it's nice
2 to be able to go through this. And there's a lot
3 of information that gets passed back and forth,
4 and for me, it's still ongoing with the education
5 of what we're trying to accomplish it's really
6 significant, but this is really a very good tool,
7 and Lisa does a terrific job when we are in the
8 meetings, and I would like to commend her for a
9 job well done.

10 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you. Mr. Wagner,
11 any further comments? The next item on the agenda
12 is the superintendent's report. Dr. Morelle.

13 DR. MORELLE: Thank you. Before I
14 begin my report, I would like to ask a follow-up
15 question. Is the committee interested in

16 scheduling a meeting, as one of the action items
17 that I saw on the slide, with regard to the
18 workshop? Do you want to discuss that at a later
19 time?

20 MR. CROWLEY: Well, Lisa, why don't
21 you put that together and get in contact with Dr.
22 Morelle and myself and Mr. Costa. Thank you.

23 DR. MORELLE: Excellent, thank you.
24 A couple of comments. First of all, I don't know
25 if our Christmas Carol actor is still here.

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1 VOICE: No, he's gone. It's past his
2 bed time.

3 DR. MORELLE: I didn't see him slip
4 out, but I actually would like to have a copy of
5 those dates because that's something my family and
6 I do every year, and I want to make sure I go. I
7 would like to congratulate him. That's an
8 incredible accomplishment for the school district
9 and for his family, so that's something that I am
10 glad you brought to our attention, Mr. Costa. On
11 the same note with regard to accomplishments, I
12 would like to make note of three of the schools in
13 the district that are going to be recognized by
14 the Rhode Island Schools Recycling Club. I was

15 pleased to receive recognition from the Director,
16 Chris Ratcliffe, that on Thursday morning of next
17 week at the Rhode Island State House, Joseph L.
18 McCourt Middle School, Ashton Elementary School,
19 and B.F. Norton Elementary School will be
20 recognized for their recycling program. As a
21 result of the state recycling program coming in
22 and doing an evaluation of our schools, the
23 schools are going to receive certificates of
24 achievement for their outstanding recycling
25 efforts, and, as well, I believe they're going to

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1 have an opportunity to tour the state house.
2 We're going to try to coordinate representatives
3 from each of the schools, including students, to
4 participate in the state house ceremony. So I'm
5 very proud of all three of the schools. In the
6 past, Community School has also been recognized.
7 So it's a good effort. It is clearly an effort
8 that aligns with what the town is trying to do
9 with households and improving the environment. So
10 congratulations to those three schools, and,
11 Mr. Pires, I know you're here in the audience,
12 congratulations to McCourt Middle School.

13 (CLAPPING)

14 **DR. MORELLE:** In addition, I would
15 like to mention that we're beginning this year's
16 budget process very shortly. I know it seems like
17 it's an always going -- that's a word I'm going to
18 invent tonight, not ongoing but always going
19 process. I'm working with Mr. Prignano, as we
20 seek to identify the specifics of the time line
21 for this budget process. We're just about at the
22 same place that we were last year with regard to
23 starting our work with the leadership team. The
24 budget materials will be distributed
25 electronically to those department heads and

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1 administrators who need to coordinate their work
2 at the school level with school improvement teams
3 and faculties prior to the end of next week. At
4 that point in time, they'll be developing
5 school-based budgets, and within the next four to
6 six weeks, they will be submitting proposed
7 budgets and budget requests, rather, to central
8 administration for review. When I have a budget
9 time line that's proposed, I would like to present
10 it to the School Committee either directly to the
11 Chairman or to the Financial Chair, depending on
12 your pleasure.

13 **MR. CROWLEY:** Why don't you do it to
14 both.

15 **DR. MORELLE:** I will do that to both,
16 and then I would like to review that with you and
17 get some specifics so that we can begin to
18 advertise when they'll be public participation.
19 If I could just make a comment, I think that last
20 year, for whatever reason, there seemed to be some
21 decreased participation in the budget process. I
22 don't know how that had an impact overall on
23 people's understanding of the work that we're
24 doing, but I would hope that we would take
25 whatever steps we can proactively to increase

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1 public participation both at the School Committee
2 level and at the Town Council level because of
3 some of the information that we already have about
4 the state of the finances for the School
5 Department next year with regard to our
6 forecasting. That's the information in my report
7 this evening.

8 **MR. CROWLEY:** Thank you, Dr. Morelle.
9 Any comments or question for Dr. Morelle? Thank
10 you. The next item on the agenda is comments from
11 the public. Do you have that sheet for me,

12 Mrs. Poore? I know you didn't have time to write
13 down everybody's last name. Ted Vecchio, Jr.
14 Vecchio is V-e-c-c-h-i-o.

15 MR. VECCHIO: Hello.

16 MR. CROWLEY: How are you doing?

17 MR. VECCHIO: Pretty good. I have
18 some questions about how the curriculum is adopted
19 or changed. I read some -- I don't know if that's
20 done through the subcommittee, or if that comes up
21 for a yearly vote or if public comment is involved
22 at all?

23 MR. CROWLEY: Public comment is
24 public comment. What we usually tell everybody is
25 it's not a question and answer period, but since

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1 this is your first time here, so, Mrs. Beaulieu,
2 would you care to field that question or Dr.
3 Morelle, either one.

4 DR. MORELLE: Mr. Vecchio, if you
5 would like to make an appointment with me, I would
6 be happy to go through that process with you and
7 give you copies of the paperwork that describe it.

8 MR. VECCHIO: That would be great.

9 DR. MORELLE: Why don't you come up
10 and give me your phone number.

11 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Vecchio.
12 Next is Jim McLaughlin, M-c-L-a-u-g-h-l-i-n. I
13 know you just had a birthday, happy birthday.
14 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. First of
15 all, I would like to thank some people. As you
16 know, we had a fundraiser on October 27th for the
17 Cumberland Clippers. We were able to raise \$2700.
18 A former educator, on the 24th of October, who had
19 been forced from his home, they had a fire, we
20 raised \$2500. But there's been a variety of
21 subjects here tonight and at the last meeting,
22 okay, that I would like to address. In reference
23 to the kindergarten -- the teachers' aides for the
24 kids, I spoke with Mr. Costa tonight, and I
25 appreciate you guys working on it. Will we have

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1 access to this information at the next School
2 Committee meeting as far as how many bodies are
3 going to be there?

4 MR. CROWLEY: I would think so
5 because it's starting November 19th. The next
6 School Committee meeting is December 13th.

7 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Okay, because it's
8 imperative that we have someone in those
9 classrooms, and I would like to thank you for

10 trying to move this forward.

11 MR. COSTA: We are working on it,
12 Jim, believe me.

13 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Okay. The next
14 thing I would like to address is a young lady, her
15 name is Lori Drew, and she had some concerns at
16 the last meeting in reference to some of the
17 literature the children have been reading. You
18 know, I find it totally offensive. This book
19 that's brought so much attention, the Dan York
20 Show, all the newspapers, I've got a handbook
21 here, and you're familiar with this handbook, and
22 this tells, you know, our students how they are to
23 conduct themselves, all right, but I really feel
24 that we as adults, the educators, parents,
25 grandparents should have a say on what's going on,

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1 and I commend Mrs. Drew for her actions for
2 standing up. It was a very controversial book,
3 but we're flooded with music. We're flooded with
4 all kinds of obscene material that our children,
5 you know, are exposed to, and I think this really
6 needs to be addressed with the superintendent and
7 the School Committee to set up safety barriers to
8 protect the innocence of our children in school.

9 The Internet programs, you know, what they
10 consider readable, you know, subjects, whatever
11 happened to Mark Twain, you know, classics, and I
12 refer to that as poetry. We've had so much
13 garbage and filth exposed to our children. We
14 need to really review this and set up maybe a
15 committee to oversee our classrooms, okay, and
16 these pinheads who write these books, okay, and
17 this poetry, and everything else, this music,
18 they're interested in the buck, and yet our kids
19 have to suffer. Do we need to put a blocker on
20 this? I believe so, and it should begin in the
21 classroom. I really ask you people as School
22 Committee members and as superintendent to look
23 into this matter, okay, to protect the innocence
24 of our children, and I would like to thank you for
25 your time.

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1 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you,
2 Mr. McLaughlin. The next item on the agenda is
3 School Committee comments, school liaison reports.
4 Any School Committee comments or reports?
5 Mrs. Beaulieu. You've had a lot of time on the
6 mic tonight.

7 MS. BEAULIEU: I like the new

8 microphone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just
9 wanted to draw everyone's attention to a
10 fundraiser by a nonprofit group in town called
11 Because Art Always Matters, and they refer to
12 themselves as BAAM Cumberland, and they were
13 started to nurture and support the fine and
14 performing arts experiences for Cumberland
15 students and to promote citizen support for an
16 enriched fine and performing arts program in
17 Cumberland, and one of their first fundraising
18 efforts is they're looking to purchase two new
19 pianos for the high school to improve some of the
20 performance programs here. They are having a
21 fundraiser Tuesday, November 13th, at Good Times
22 Restaurant on Diamond Hill Road from 6:30 to 8:30.
23 The Cumberland High School Clef Singers and two of
24 their high school pianists will entertain the
25 guests throughout the evening. Tickets are \$25

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1 per person, \$40 per couple. You can come see me
2 afterwards, and I can give you a phone number, or
3 if you want to contact the organization, the
4 e-mail address is INFO@BAAMCUMBERLAND.ORG, and
5 it's B-A-A-M CUMBERLAND.ORG. Thank you.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mrs.

7 Beaulieu. Mr. Costa wanted me to ask you to
8 change the date because he and I are going to be
9 away that night.

10 MS. BEAULIEU: I'm sorry, we can't do
11 that, Mr. Costa. Any other comments, school
12 committee liaison reports? I will entertain a
13 motion to adjourn.

14 MR. COSTA: So moved.

15 MR. WAGNER: So moved.

16 MR. CROWLEY: Motion by Mr. Costa and
17 Mr. Wagner.

18 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

19 MR. CROWLEY: Seconded by
20 Mrs. Beaulieu. All those in favor?

21 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

22 MR. CROWLEY: Opposed? Hearing no
23 opposition, the ayes have it.

24 (UNANIMOUS VOTE AYE)

25 (MEETING CLOSED AT 8:50 P.M.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, Jane M. Poore, hereby certify that the
3 foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete
4 transcript of my notes taken at the above entitled
5 hearing.

6 **IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my**
7 **hand this 27th day of November, 2007.**

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14 **JANE M. POORE, NOTARY PUBLIC/RPR**
 My commission expires 9/11/09

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20 **DATE: November 8, 2007**

IN RE: Cumberland School Committee

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